RAMI's Original Visual Book 13th.
eco

●The middle title page illustration:

An illustration I had the privilege of doing as a contribution for a book on western clothing by Asaki Yuzuno-san from CLOSET CHILD.

●The illustration on the left:

A contribution to the 'Glasses Kids' pinup for the fifth LNF (Light Novel Festival).

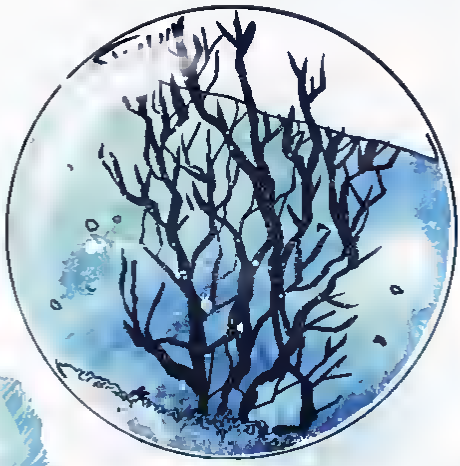
INTRODUCTION

●Good day. It's been a while. I am Hato RAMI. Thank you very much for picking up a copy of the 13th volume, [eco], published by Hato no Tamago (Dove's Egg). ●For the title, I had wanted to choose one word that had something to do Earth, but I couldn't pin down a good one. In desperation, I tried naming it after the recently fashionable eco-design. Though the actual content is quite unrelated to this topic... ; Sorry... ; ●The main theme is actually 「Loli X Shota」. ●This volume is the first book I've written in the past one and a half years. Due to my poor health, work schedule and so forth, the primary activity for me in 2006 has been re-printing. I'm hoping to do my best for what I can this year. Although I'm not saying that I'll be spending more time than usual on this assignment. And it's been 4 years since I've last drawn an original manga... Now that everything that's been included is recent work, it's as if it's the first time drawing these things... On top of that, it's the first time I've ever sent an entire volume of just digital work to the press... ; I feel really uneasy. ●But I think that because it's been such a long time since I've expressed anything (artistically), I can draw, though I think there are lot of shoddy places. I'd be delighted if you enjoyed reading this. ●With that, please enjoy to the very end... the charming 「Loli X Shota」 world.

eco

Beach World.

A small-scale reproduction of the life systems, photosynthesis and food chains, that are unique to Earth alone.



A tiny, glass globe.

This is my twelfth birthday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LLOYD.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS.

Sparkly and shiny,

This planet that belongs only to me, that is sitting in the palm of my hand.

THANKS, DADDY!

The same life cycle as Earth revived.

The 'real' Beach World.

One year later...

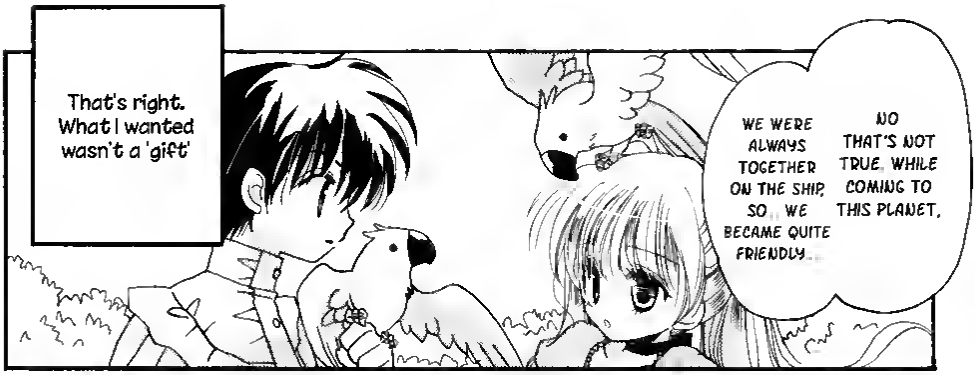
On the people-less planet that Dad had prepared for me...

This is the tiny planet that you can finish walking around in a week.

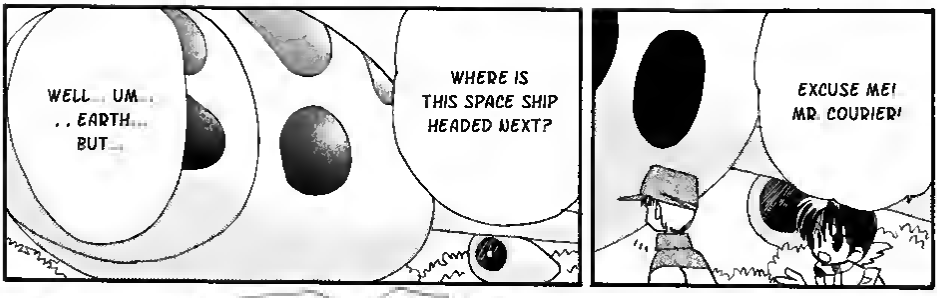
A single planet, tiny and round.
This was my present for my thirteenth birthday.
But, no way, I have to stay here all by myself?
WELL THEN, DAD'S GONNA HEAD BACK TO EARTH.
Eeh!?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LLOYD.
EVERYTHING ON THIS PLANET - OF COURSE, THIS INCLUDES THE MANSION - ALL OF IT BELONGS TO YOU, AND YOU ONLY.
And another year later... A card from Dad arrived...
Happy 14th birthday, Lloyd.
Have you been well?
Dad's sent your present this year, but...

The pair of parrots you waited for before, and...
SORRY.
UM...
UWAAH!
So you can live on this planet alone without becoming lonely.
SFX: FLAP FLAP

I thought I'd gift you with a 'friend'.
There's no doubt, I was given an 'angel' as a gift...
UM...
SFX: FLAP FLAP
AH...
ARE THESE PARROTS YOURS?
THAT CHILD'S ONE OF A PAIR...
THAT CHILD...


That's right. What I wanted wasn't a 'gift'
NO THAT'S NOT TRUE. WHILE COMING TO THIS PLANET, WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER ON THE SHIP, SO... WE BECAME QUITE FRIENDLY...

IS THE SHIP THAT TRANSPORTED YOU ALL HERE STILL AROUND?
IT'S PROBABLY STILL IN THAT DIRECTION...
That would make me never think about leaving this planet!


WELL... UM... . . EARTH... BUT...
WHERE IS THIS SPACE SHIP HEADED NEXT?
EXCUSE ME! MR. COURIER!

EH? BUT...
THIS SHIP CARRIES ONE PERSON, AND EVERYTHING ELSE IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR CARGO. .
NO, NO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
UM, MAY I TRAVEL TOGETHER WITH YOU? MONEY'S...

THEY'RE HIGH-CLASS ANDROIDS.
THE PROPORTIONS OF EVERY PART OF THEIR BODY ARE CALCULATED TO BE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT AND ARE DESIGNED ACCORDINGLY.
THAT GAL'S A SECTION D'OR. DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?
SECTION D'OR? (GOLDEN PROPORTIONS) ...?
IT LIVES A NORMAL LIFE, NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY HUMAN, BUT IT'S JUST A DOLL WHOSE ONLY MERIT IS ITS BEAUTY
THEN AGAIN, FOR CHILDREN LIKE YOU, THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER USE FOR THEM BESIDES FOR 'ADMIRATION'
ANYWAYS...

HEY,
DON'T YOU THINK BEAUTY IS A 'TALENT'?
THE WORD, GIFT, ALSO MEANS 'TALENT BESTOWED BY THE HEAVENS'.
THAT'S WHY, SEE, IT'S VERY VALUABLE.
IT'S FUN BEING WEALTHY, ISN'T IT? SURE IS ENVIABLE.
SEE YA!
SFX: VROOOOOM
This was a gift from the sky.
AWW, HE LEFT.
FEELS TERRIBLE, DOESN'T IT...
... I...
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M LLOYD.
SFX- REACH

THERE ARE FIELDS, AND LIVESTOCK AS WELL.
IT'S A RARE OPPORTUNITY, SO LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND THIS PLANET
I'M SARAH.
SARAH, YOU'RE THE FIRST GUEST I'VE HAD SINCE I CAME HERE!
IT'S SMALL, BUT THERE'S LOTS OF NATURE.
EVERYTHING THAT'S NEEDED FOR A LIFE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY HAS BEEN GATHERED ONTO THIS PLANET
LLOYD...
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE BIO-GAS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY OF COURSE, THERE'S AS MUCH FOOD AS YOU WANT TOO.
I'm a little proud of it!

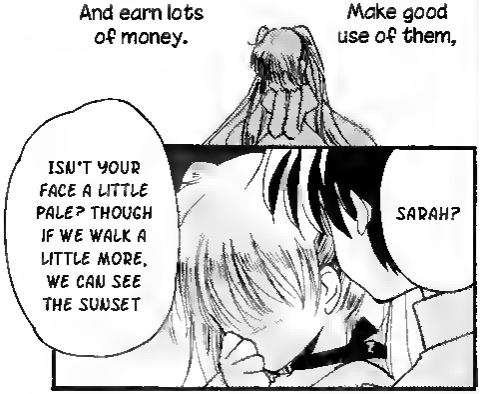
I ALSO HAD FRIENDS WHO WERE CLOSE BUDDIES.
GOING TO THE SCHOOL AND GETTING THE GRADES DAD WANTED.
UP UNTIL ONE YEAR AGO, I WAS LIVING NORMALLY ON EARTH.

LLOYD. WHY ARE YOU LIVING HERE BY YOURSELF?

SOMEHOW IT'S MANAGED TO KEEP GOING UNTIL NOW.
WHEN I CAME, THE SYSTEM WAS ALREADY ALL SET UP.
I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE LIKE THIS EVER SINCE.
BUT, ONE YEAR AGO, DAD BROUGHT ME HERE.
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FALL SICK?
HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT ABOUT RUNNING AWAY?
I'VE ALSO THOUGHT OF AND TRIED MANY OTHER WAYS OF ESCAPING, BUT...
A MEDICAL ROBOT WILL COME RUSHING AND THEY'LL IMMEDIATELY FIND OUT I WAS LYING.
IF I FAKE ILLNESS AND TRY MAKING AN EMERGENCY CALL.
The gift placed in this hand...
SARAH...
YOU KNOW? TRUTH IS... I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I ALWAYS GIVE UP HALF-WAY.

This gift...

You will sell this face and body of yours!


And earn lots of money.
Make good use of them,
ISN'T YOUR FACE A LITTLE PALE? THOUGH IF WE WALK A LITTLE MORE, WE CAN SEE THE SUNSET
SARAH?

WHY DON'T WE HEAD BACK TO THE MANSION BEFORE IT GETS DARK?
I'M SORRY

What should I do with it?

HOW DO YOU FEEL, SARAH? IS THIS ROOM COLD? SHOULD I SWITCH OFF THE AIR-CONDITIONING?
SFX: GLUG GLUG GLUG
THE MODEL FOR THIS PLANET.
LOOK, THIS IS BEACH WORLD.
THANKS, LLOYD I'M FINE.
GREAT.
I GOT IT FROM DAD.
AFTER JUST BEING EXPOSED TO LIGHT, THIS WILL BE FILLED WITH A COMPLETE ECOSYSTEM.
IT'S VERY PRETTY
SARAH,
WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU BEFORE YOU CAME HERE?

I'M SORRY, LLOYD I'LL BE LEAVING HERE TOMORROW MORNING...
SARAH?
WHILE I WAS ON THE SHIP, I WAS TOLD...
TO BRING ALONG SOMETHING EXPENSIVE FROM THIS MANSION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
AND, HE'LL COME AND PICK ME UP EARLY TOMORROW MORNING...
Don't you think beauty is a 'talent'?
I'M...
NOT THAT...
SFX: SLIP
.....
MY...
That's why it's very valuable.

This gift that was given by God or someone else,
What should we do with it?
BUT WITH SUCH AN APPEARANCE, I AM DEFINITELY 'MERCHANDISE WITH ZERO WORTH'...
SFX: FALL
THIS 'MARK'...
MY VERY FIRST OWNER... THAT PERSON ADDED,

What is it that I want to do...?
SFX: CRASH

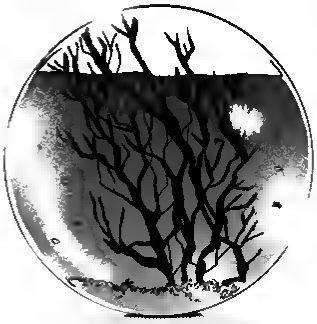
SORRY, SARAH.
I HURT YOU WITH MY WORDS...
SFX: CHIRP CHIRP
SFX: TAP TAP TAP

IT'S ON STAND-BY. READY TO TAKE-OFF ANY MINUTE, SO WAIT RIGHT THERE!
THE SHIP?
TSK! YOU SURE ARE USELESS! GUESS I HAVE TO GO MYSELF. HUH
SFX: SNEAK
UM... THERE'S A LOT. AND IT'S HEAVY...
OI!
HURRY UP AND COME OVER HERE! WHERE'RE THE VALUABLES?
I have a good idea in mind.
Sarah! Leave the planet together with me!
THE SHIP'S THAT WAY!
HE'S GOING TOWARDS THE MANSION
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO! IT'S OURS NOW!
WHERE IS HE?
SFX. RUSTLE
SFX: VROOOOOM
WE...

WE DID IT! ESCAPE SUCCESS!
IT'S OKAY!
SINCE I'VE SPENT A YEAR LIVING BY MYSELF
THE SHIP'S GONE~
BUT I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY OKAY TO TAKE THE SHIP?
And thus...
SFX- FLUTTER

Even though my tiny planet was broken,

And now, I feel the growing urge to show Dad just how much I've grown.



The creatures living there are doing well, and I made sure to bring everyone along with me.

POSTSCRIPT

●Now then, it's the postscript. Right now, I'm writing this at the very end, after having finished the final check of the manga manuscript. ●The rough sketch on the left was something I had drawn up initially for the front cover. I was in the middle of doing the colours, but two days before the deadline, while putting together the images, I hurriedly re-drew a new one, so I shelved this one away. ●Actually, this time around, because the time that I had put aside to draw the manga kept getting eaten up by other unexpected things, I completed the Storyboard in 3 days' time, breaking my previous fastest record for it. ●After that, the drawings that followed were... in a bit of a fix because of my ill health half-way through the process (wry laugh) Anyway, as I had touched upon in the introduction, it's really tough because I've forgotten the manga drawing skills that I'd accumulated over years of work. And, seriously? I felt embarrassed, whichever scene I was drawing (laugh) ●But in the end, I managed to draw it... So whatever! ●For the time being, as the least I can do to make up for it... This prop that featured this time around, the 'Beach World', is probably the name of some merchandise ; Somehow or another, in my big panic to put together the story, I didn't check it- sorry. I couldn't come up with another name besides this item's rather peculiar one, so I just used it this time. ●I took a hint from the Bible for the theme of the story. Well, frankly, you learn this in class during middle or high school, but I didn't pay much attention in class so I don't remember it too well, but I drew inspiration from one of the stories that left an impression on me. ●The characters' names are Lloyd Webber and Sarah Brightman (sorry for being pretentious). ●I just wanted to say at the end... Putting on knee-length trousers are fun! (Over there!) ●...That's why, if you don't mind, just being able to hear your thoughts, opinions and so on would make me throw my arms in the air in delight, so please take care of me. I don't know what will come next, but I hope that I'd be blessed with the chance to see you again.

●20070809 Hato RAMI

RAMI's Original Visual Book 13th.

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HATO no TAMAGO eCO
http://www.ki.rim.or.jp/~hato/

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No, we do not like shoujo. You should not expect more releases like this from us. We have strange project picking processes based on the strangeness of our members. We picked this because it was short, the scans were good, and Elkin agreed to translate it. So yeah, the bottom line is if you want to see better projects, translate for us. I know that doesn't make sense, but you'll see. Maybe.

Translation Notes:

; (semi-colon)
In the mangaka's introduction and postscript, you may notice that he uses the semi-colon in a rather unusual way. The semi-colon actually signifies a sweatdrop, so just imagine him doing a manga-style sweatdrop every time you see a semi-colon.

Beach World
http://www.outride.jp/globus/beach_world.html
This is not a world of sandy beaches, blue skies and splashing waves, as you'd expect. It is a product produced by Outride, consisting of a glass sphere containing a mini-ecosystem (aquatic, to be specific), and requires nothing but sunlight to maintain itself.

This particular product draws its inspiration from NASA's Biosphere 2 space colony project, which attempted to create a man-made, closed ecosystem.

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